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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,085	03/24/2004	John Ratzloff	1449.001US2	5362
21186	7590	04/10/2007	EXAMINER	
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A. P.O. BOX 2938 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			CULLER, JILL E	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2854
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	04/10/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/808,085	RATZLOFF, JOHN	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Jill E. Culler	2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2007.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 3-18 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 3-18 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
     Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 3-9, 15 and 17 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 3, on line 7, there is no antecedent basis for the recitation of "the mounting strip". It appears that applicant inadvertently failed to positively claim the mounting strip when amending the claim. In order to further prosecution it is assumed that the mounting strip should have been positively claimed and the claim has been examined accordingly.

Claim 15 is currently dependent from claim 1, which has been canceled. It appears that applicant intended the claim to depend from claim 3 and, in order to further prosecution, the claim has been examined accordingly.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 3, 7-12 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter et al. (US 6,071,030) in view of Truc et al. (4,911,777)

With respect to claims 3, 10, and 11, Hunter et al. teaches a method of preserving a printed image. As illustrated in Figure 5, Hunter teaches the step of

providing an assembly, 110, of a blank, photo-printable sheet, 116, and a hinge strip, 114. (See also column 6, lines 52-6) Figure 5 further shows the hinge strip including a mounting portion, 122, for mounting the hinge strip to an album. Figure 11 teaches the step of sending the assembly through a printer to print a photographic image on the blank sheet. Hunter et al. further teaches the step of mounting the assembly in an album using the mounting strip. (See column 1.)

Hunter et al. does not teach that the hinge strip is spaced apart by a gap from the edge of the blank sheet and connected by connecting strips thereto.

Truc et al. teaches an assembly for mounting in an album including a sheet, 12, and a hinge strip, 44, spaced apart from the edge of the sheet by a gap, 50, and connected by connecting strips thereto. See column 4, lines 1-16 and Fig. 6 in particular.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the assembly of Hunter et al. to have the gap and edge strips, as taught by Truc et al., in order to more securely and durably assemble the two pieces.

With respect to claim 7, Figure 11 of the primary reference Hunter et al. shows the step of sending the blank sheet and attached mounting strip through the printer to print an image on the sheet, such that the image becomes integral with the paper.

With respect to claim 8, Figure 11 of the primary reference Hunter et al. shows the step of sending the blank sheet and attached mounting strip through a desktop digital printer. Column 5 lines 61-66 teach the use of a digital printer.

With respect to claims 9 and 12, the primary reference Hunter et al. teaches mounting holes 122.

With respect to claims 15-16, although Hunter et al. and Truc et al. do not explicitly teach the gap having a width in the range of about 0.375 inches, one having ordinary skill in the art would find it obvious that width of the gap would be dependent upon the relative sizes of the sheets and hinge strips and therefore the optimum size could best be determined through routine experimentation.

With respect to claims 17-18, although Hunter et al. and Truc et al. do not explicitly teach the use of a photo-grade material, the applicant should note that insofar as structure is defined, the printer paper sheet 110 of Hunter meets this limitation, as a photo of good quality may be printed on the sheet. Furthermore the term photo-grade paper as broadly recited, does not define a cut-off requirement as to what quality of photo is enough to meet this limitation.

4. Claims 4, 6, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter et al. (US 6,071,030) in view of Truc et al. (US 4,911,777) as applied to claims 3, 7-12 and 15-18 above, and further in view of Tyler (US 4,207,366).

As outlined above, Hunter et al. and Truc et al. teach all the claimed method steps, except the composition of the photo-grade sheet is not known.

With respect to claims 4, 6, and 13, column 1 lines 35-54 of Tyler teach paper for printing, the paper comprising 100% cotton rag paper. Column 1 lines 35-54 also teach the use of neutral (acid-free) paper.

To one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious to use the paper taught by Tyler, in the method of Hunter et al. and Truc et al. in order to provide dimensionally stable crush resistant paper, as taught in the abstract of Tyler.

With respect to claim 14, and the requirement for an acid free hinge strip, column 1 lines 48-54 teach the importance of neutral (acid-free) paper.

In view of this teaching of Tyler, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make an acid-free hinge strip because neutrality in paper in the most important factor in paper permanence as taught by Tyler in column 1 line 50.

5. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunter et al. (US 6,071,030) in view of Truc et al. (US 4,911,777) as applied to claims 3, 7-12 and 15-18 above, and further in view of Singh et al. (US 6,332,953).

As outlined above, Hunter et al. and Truc et al. teach all the claimed method steps, except the composition of the paper is not known.

Column 2 lines 48-50 of Singh teach paper for printing, the paper being unbleached and uncoated.

To one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious to use the unbleached and uncoated paper of Singh et al., in the method of Hunter et al. and Truc et al., because paper of this composition has been routinely used for printing purposes, as taught in column 2 of Singh et al.

***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jill E. Culler whose telephone number is (571) 272-2159. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jec

*Jill E. Culler*  
Patent Examiner